

Ride BART's Freedom Trains on MLK Day



"Freedom Trains" will carry riders from BART's five endpoints and Daly City to Powell Street station on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 17. From Powell Street, the annual Freedom March proceeds to the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium for a celebratory rally.

For the sixth consecutive year, BART will provide commemorative Martin Luther King Day Flash Passes,

distributed free through the Northern California Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee. Flash passes are good for BART rides to and from the event. For flash pass information, call 510/268-3777 or visit www.norcalmlk.org.

BART's Freedom Trains will depart for San Francisco on the following schedule: Fremont 10:51 a.m.; Dublin/ Pleasanton 10:59 a.m.; Richmond 11:12 a.m.;

Pittsburg/BayPoint 10:47 a.m.; Daly City 11:32 a.m.; and Millbrae at 11:05 a.m. Freedom Trains will make scheduled stops at all stations, then arrive at BART's Powell Street station in San Francisco between 11:39 and 11:50 a.m.

BART's Freedom Riders march from Powell Street to the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, arriving at about 12:30 p.m. for the beginning of the rally featuring speakers, live music and entertainment.

BART PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

BART to SFO Trips Flying High

BART's San Francisco International Airport station set another ridership record over Christmas week.

This year, nearly 49,000 people saved time and money by taking BART to SFO between the Monday before Christmas and the Sunday after. That's a 19% increase over the same time period last year.

The benefit of BART's new low-cost, long-term parking program helped make BART to the airport even more attractive. There's been a 113% increase in long-term parking reservations by customers parking and then catching a BART train to



either SFO or Oakland International airports since the program started in March.

BART riders can make reservations for long-term parking at all East Bay BART parking lots except West Oakland. Log on to www.bart.gov/parking or by call 877/700-PARK.

Take BART the next time you need to get to the airport. Whether you're picking up friends or relatives or leaving on a trip of your own, BART helps you avoid traffic delays, parking hassles and the high cost of taxis, rental cars and shuttles. Arrive rested and ready: take BART!

Take BART to the Hottest Hoops Action

Bay Area basketball heats up this month for hoops fans, college and pro.

Take BART to Coliseum Station as the Warriors host some of the top names in the NBA. Golden State takes on Shaquille O'Neal and the Miami Heat (Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.), Kobe Bryant and the L.A. Lakers (Jan. 15, 7:30), Carmelo Anthony and the Denver Nuggets (Jan. 17, 7:30), LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers (Jan. 22, 7:30), Jason Kidd and the New Jersey Nets (Jan. 26, 7:30), and Ray Allen and the Seattle SuperSonics (Jan. 28, 7:30). All games are at the Arena in Oakland.



For Cal Basketball, take BART to the Downtown Berkeley station. Hass Pavilion (Bancroft Way) is just a 5-minute walk away. Visit calbears.com or call 800/GO BEARS for complete ticket and schedule information.

The Cal men take on Stanford (Jan. 15, 1:00), Oregon (Jan. 27, 7:30) and Oregon State (Jan. 29, 7:30) in Pac 10 action. The Cal Women's Basketball schedule includes USC (Jan. 20, 7:00), UCLA (Jan. 22, 3:00) and Arizona State (Feb. 3, 7:00).

Don't foul out! Take BART to the game.

Start the New Year Right, Join MyBART!

Looking for special deals on your favorite events in 2005? Sign up for MyBART!

MyBART is a free, customized email service that gives members discounts on fun events that are easy to get to on BART. Choose the categories you're interested in and receive customized email offers on only the events you want. From music to sports, arts to family entertainment, BART will take you there. Join today at www.bart.gov and you'll be in on all the fun. You can update your customized preferences or unsubscribe at any time.

Members can also take part in MyBART contests. Enter for the chance to win tickets to the hottest shows in the Bay Area, high-value BART tickets and other great prizes.

So what are you waiting for? Join MyBART today!



Tax-Free Commuter Benefit Increased

Save Up To \$500 Annually

As of January 1, commuters participating in employer-sponsored transit benefit programs can now save up to \$500 annually. Employers save more on payroll taxes as well—up to \$120 per employee.



Beginning January 1, the maximum benefit for tax-free transit rises to \$105 per month, as part of IRS Section 132(f). The law will allow employers to give employees up to \$1,260 per year in transit value as a pre-tax payroll deduction or a tax-free employee benefit.

For more specific information please see IRS Revenue Procedure 2004-71, dated November 19, 2004, available online at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/rp-04-71.pdf. These new limits are found under section 12 "Qualified Transportation Fringe" on page 9.

"Ride Now!" Carpool Program Launched

Do you use BART's Dublin/ Pleasanton station and sometimes need a last-minute ride to get there? Can you pick up another BART passenger on the way to or from the BART station? If so, you can take advantage of a new, free service called RideNow to connect you instantly with other BART riders for carpools to Dublin/Pleasanton BART.

Ride Now! is being launched as a pilot program at the Dublin/Pleasanton station, and passengers are needed to help test the service. The first 75 people to register for the Ride Now! pilot program by January 31, 2005 and attend an orientation will receive a free \$32 BART ticket. You'll also get free parking within steps of the station every time you use the service. The pilot program will run until June 2005.

For more details and to sign up for the pilot, visit www.ridenow.org.

Ride Now!



GOOD TIMES

The Art of Living Black 2005

Richmond Art Center
2540 Barrett Ave., Richmond
www.therichmondartcenter.org or 510/620-6772
BART: Richmond, exit east toward Nevin, left on 19th, right on Barrett to 25th.

Jan. 25-March 20: Main gallery features the Ninth Annual Bay Area Black Artists Non-Juried Exhibition and Self-Guided Art Tour. The other galleries also feature new exhibitions: "Nancy Boy" showcases male artists who address feminist issues, use "feminine" materials or incorporate "feminine" esthetics. "Sanctuary" explores youth creating refuge and protecting from violence what is most precious. Also on display: Laura Splan's "Domesticated Viscera" and Ellis Myers, photography "A Window in Time: Black Life in Postwar Richmond."



James Weeks, *Ibejis*

Mambo Italiano

The New Conservatory Theatre Center
25 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
www.nctcsf.org or 415/861-8972
BART: Civic Center

Jan. 14-Feb 20: A young gay man comes out amidst the hysteria and hilarity of his Italian family, while his parents devise a collection of schemes intended to turn him straight. The Jan. 27 performance is closed-captioned for the deaf/hearing-impaired. Pay as you Wish Community Night is Thursday, Jan. 20.



18th annual Día de los Reyes concert

Mission Dolores Basilica
Dolores at 16th Street, San Francisco
www.corohispano.org or 415/431-4234
BART: 16th Street, 4-block walk

Sunday, Jan. 16, 3 p.m.: Performance celebrates the Latino traditional arrival of the Three Wise Men. Fiesta to follow at 5:15 p.m. in the parish auditorium.



Waiting for Van Gogh: Dutch Paintings from the 19th Century

Bedford Gallery
Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
www.bedfordgallery.org or 925/295-1417
BART: Walnut Creek

Through Jan. 30: 70 magnificent paintings dating from 1830 to the early 1900s emulate the style and approach of the old Dutch masters. Many artists featured were friends, teachers and colleagues of the period's most famous Dutch artist, Vincent Van Gogh.



Johannes Christianus Schotel (1787-1938), *Dutch Smacks on a Stormy Sea*, oil on canvas

Community Day

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
151 Third Street, San Francisco
www.sfmoma.org or 415/947-1292

Saturday, Jan. 22, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.: SFMOMA marks the 10th anniversary of its dramatic Mario Botta-designed building. Families are invited to celebrate on Community Day with music, performances and hands-on art projects. Adults must be accompanied by a child.

Gilbert & Sullivan's The Yeomen of the Guard

The Lamplighters
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
Third and Folsom streets, San Francisco
www.lamplighters.org or 415/978-2787
BART: Powell or Montgomery

Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
www.lamplighters.org or 925/943-7469
BART: Walnut Creek

Jan. 14-23 (San Francisco); **Jan. 27-30** (Walnut Creek): The renowned Lamplighters present the exquisite and rarely performed masterpiece about a prisoner who escapes from the Tower of London and assumes the identity of a guardsman. Thursday, Jan. 20, is Pay What You Can Night in San Francisco.



BARToon
grimescartoons.com

© JIMMY GRIMES